

Amendments to the Claims

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 (canceled).

8. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 1 which has been coated electrolytically, by PVD or by CVD.

9. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 2 which has been coated electrolytically, by PVD or by CVD.

10. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 3 which has been coated electrolytically, by PVD or by CVD.

11. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 5 which has been coated electrolytically, by PVD or by CVD.

12. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 1 coated electrolytically by PVD or by CVD with intercalated hard-material particles.

13. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 2 coated electrolytically by PVD or by CVD with intercalated hard-material particles.

14. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 3 coated electrolytically by PVD or by CVD with intercalated hard-material particles.

15. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 5 coated electrolytically by PVD or by CVD with intercalated hard-material particles.

16. (Withdrawn) A sawblade made of a steel alloy of claim 1, coated at least in the region of the cutting teeth with an electrolytic, PVD or CVD layer containing hard-material particle.

17. (Withdrawn) A sawblade made of a steel alloy of claim 2, coated at least in the region of the cutting teeth with an electrolytic, PVD or CVD layer containing hard-material particle.

18. (Withdrawn) A sawblade made of a steel alloy of claim 3, coated at least in the region of the cutting teeth with an electrolytic, PVD or CVD layer containing hard-material particle.

19. (Withdrawn) A sawblade made of a steel alloy of claim 5, coated at least in the region of the cutting teeth with an electrolytic, PVD or CVD layer containing hard-material particle.

Claims 20-31 (Cancelled)

32. (NEW) An article which is resistant to hydrogen embrittlement comprising:

a support band;

said support band comprising by weight:

0.25 to 0.35% of carbon;

0.3 to 0.5% of silicon;

0.8 to 1.5% of manganese;

1.0 to 2.0% of molybdenum;

1.5 to 3.5% of chromium;

0.5 to 1.5% of nickel;

0.5 to 2.5% of tungsten;

0.15 to 0.30% of vanadium;

and/or

0.05 to 0.10% of niobium;

0.05 to 1.0% of copper;

0.01 to 0.2% of aluminum;

0.01 to 1.0% of cobalt;

and

remainder iron including smelting-related impurities;

said support band having a portion which is plated and consists of an embedding material selected from one or more of the following group: nickel, titanium, aluminum, copper, and tin; and

said portion incorporating hard-material particles.

33. (NEW) The support band of claim 32 wherein said hard-material particles are selected from one or more of the following group: cubic boron nitride, sintered carbides, titanium carbide, carbonitrides, titanium aluminum nitrides and oxides, Al_2O_3 , and diamond particles.

34. (NEW) The support band of claim 32 further comprising:

1.2 to 1.8% of molybdenum,

1.5 to 2.5% of chromium, and

1.2 to 1.8% of tungsten.

35. (NEW) The support band of claim 32 wherein the ratio of the molybdenum and tungsten contents is 0.9 to 1.1.

36. (NEW) The support band of claim 34 wherein the ratio of the molybdenum and tungsten contents is 0.9 to 1.1.

37 (NEW) The support band of claim 32, wherein said support band has a surface area, said portion which is coated is between 10 to 60% of said surface area of said support band.

38. (NEW) The article of claim 32, wherein the support band has a Vickers hardness of 450 to 550.

39. (NEW) The article of claim 32, wherein said support band has a **K** value less than 10, wherein

$$K = 100 \left(\frac{N_o - N_b}{N_o} \right)$$

where **K** represents the hydrogen embrittlement;

N_o is the number of bending operations until fracture in a specimen which is not laden with hydrogen; and

N_b is the number of bending operations for a specimen which has been electrolytically laden with hydrogen.

40. (NEW) The article of claim 39, comprising a heat treated support band, wherein said support band has been heat treated by austenization at a temperature of greater than 1150° C.